Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn) A method of providing purchasing inducements to a consumer, the method comprising:

recording a communication user agent addressing id in association with a unique id in a database;

transmitting a representation of said unique id to the communication user agent whose addressing id was recorded in association with it;

associating al least one promotional offer with said unique id;

wirelessly receiving said unique id at a point of sale terminal;

obtaining data defining said offer or offers from a remote station;

making a sale using the point of sale terminal,

wherein the sale price of said sale is modified in dependence said data defining said offer or offers and the goods/services being sold.

2. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the making of an association between a promotional offer and a unique id is notified to the communication user agent whose addressing id is associated with said unique id.

3. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein if said offer is taken up, the fact of its being taken up is reported to a remote station.

4. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 3, wherein the association between a promotional offer and said unique id is broken in response to reporting of it having been taken up.

5.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 3, including associating another promotional offer with said unique id in response to reporting of a previous offer having been taken up.

6.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 5, wherein the making of an association between a promotional offer and a unique id is notified to the communication user agent whose addressing id is associated with said unique id.

7.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 1, including breaking an association between a promotional offer and said unique id in dependence on a predetermined event.

8.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said event is the offer having been taken up a predetermined plurality of times.

9.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 7, wherein said event is the present date being a predetermined date.

10.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 1, wherein said representation is an image of a bar code.

11.   (Withdrawn)   A method according to claim 10, wherein said id is wirelessly received by displaying the bar code and scanning it with a bar code scanner.

12.   (Withdrawn)   A system for providing purchasing inducements to a consumer, the apparatus comprising:

a database system recording:

associations between communication user agent addressing ids and respective unique ids,

associations between promotional offers and said unique ids;

transmitting means for transmitting representations of said unique id to the

communication user agents whose addressing id are associated therewith in the database system;

a point of sale terminal comprising:

wireless input means for wirelessly receiving said unique ids using said

representations, and

communication means for obtaining data defining offers from a remote station in

dependence on received unique ids,

wherein the point of said terminal is configured for modifying the sale price of a sale in

dependence the promotional offer data associated with a said received unique id and the

goods/services being sold.

13.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 12, wherein the transmitting means is

responsive to the making of an association between a promotional offer and a unique id in the

database system to notify the new association to the communication user agent whose addressing

id is associated with said unique id.

14.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 12, wherein the point of sale terminal

is configured to report the taking up of said promotional offers to at least one remote station.

15.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 14, wherein the database system is

responsive to a signal reporting taking up of a promotional offer to break the association between

a promotional offer and the unique id associated with said taking up.

16.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 14, wherein the database system is

responsive to a signal reporting taking up of a promotional offer to associate another promotional

offer with the unique id associated with said taking up.

17.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 16, wherein the transmitting means is

responsive to the making of an association between a promotional offer and a unique id in the

database system to notify the new association to the communication user agent whose addressing id is associated with said unique id.

18.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 12, wherein the database system is configured for breaking an association between a promotional offer and unique ids in dependence on a predetermined event.

19.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 18, wherein said event is the offer having been taken up a predetermined plurality of times.

20.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 18, wherein said event is the present date being a predetermined date.

21.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 12, wherein said representation is an image of a bar code.

22.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 21, wherein said wireless input means is a bar code scanner.

23.   (Original)   A point of sale terminal comprising:

a scanner means for reading product ids from products;

a machine-to-machine data input device for receiving a user id from a communication user agent;

network communication means; and

processing means operable to accumulate a total purchase price in dependence on product id codes read by the scanner means and store said code values,

wherein the processing means is configured to be responsive to a user id from said data input device to:

transmit said user id to a remote location in a request message via the network

communication means;

receive a response to said request message via the network communication means, the response containing a list of product id codes; and

reduce the accumulated purchase price in dependence on matches between elements in said list and said stored product codes.

24. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 23, wherein the processing means is configured to be further responsive to a user id from the data input device to report said matches to a remote location via said network communication means.

25. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 23, wherein the scanner means is a bar code scanner.

26. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 25, wherein the machine-to-machine data input device comprises said bar code scanner.

27. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 26, wherein the processing means is configured to identify a user id by comparing a code from the bar code scanner with a range of codes not reserved for product ids.

28. (Original) A point of sale terminal according to claim 23, including user input means, wherein the processing means is configured to identify a user id by detecting a predetermined operation of said user input means.

29. (Original) A transaction system comprising a point of sale terminal and a communication user agent, the point of sale terminal comprising:

a bar code scanner means for reading product ids from products and a user id from a communication user agent,

network communication means, and

processing means operable to accumulate a total purchase price in dependence on product id codes read by the scanner means and store said code values;

and the communication user agent being operable to display a bar code representing a user id code,

wherein the processing means of the point of sale terminal is configured to be responsive to a user id from said data input device to:

transmit said user id to a remote location in a request message via the network communication means,

receive a response to said request message via the network communication means, the response containing a list of product id codes,

reduce the accumulated purchase price in dependence on matches between elements in said list and said stored product codes, and

report said matches to a remote location via said network communication means.

30.　(Original)　A system according to claim 29, wherein the processing means is configured to identify a user id by comparing a code from the bar code scanner with a range of codes not reserved for product ids.

31.　(Original)　A system according to claim 30, wherein point of sale means includes user input means and the processing means is configured to identify a user id by detecting a predetermined operation of said user input means.

32.　(Withdrawn)　A discount administration apparatus comprising:

a WAN interface;

a mobile communication network interface;

a database containing data linking, directly or indirectly, a user id to one or more product

ids and associated discount amounts; and

processing means,

wherein the processing means is configured for sending said user id to a communication

user agent via the mobile communication network interface and for responding to a request

message, containing said user id, received via the WAN interface, by generating a response

message containing product ids and discount amounts linked to said user id in the database, and

sending the response message to the source of the request message via the WAN interface.

33. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the mobile

communication network interface is an interface to a messaging service of a communication user

agent network.

34. (Withdrawn) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the processing means

is configured to be responsive to a further message, containing said user id and a product id,

from said source to remove the link between said user id and the product id in the database.

35. (Withdrawn) A transaction system comprising a point of sale terminal, a

communication user agent and discount administration apparatus, the point of sale terminal

comprising:

a bar code scanner means for reading product ids from products and a user id

from a communication user agent,

network communication means, and

processing means operable to accumulate a total purchase price in dependence on

product id codes read by the scanner means and store said code values;

the communication user agent being operable to display a bar code representing a user id

code, and

discount administration apparatus comprising:

a WAN interface;

a mobile communication network interface;

a database containing data linking, directly or indirectly, a user id to one or more product ids and associated discount amounts; and

processing means, wherein the processing means of the point of sale terminal is configured to be responsive to a user id from said data input device to:

transmit said user id to a remote location in a request message via the network communication means,

receive a response to said request message via the network communication means, the response containing a list of product id codes,

reduce the accumulated purchase price in dependence on matches between elements in said list and said stored product codes, and

report said matches to a remote location via said network communication means,

the processing means of the discount administration system is configured for sending said user id to a communication user agent via the mobile communication network interface and for responding to a request message, containing said user id, received via the WAN interface, by generating a response message containing product ids and discount amounts linked to said user id in the database, and sending the response message to the source of the request message via the WAN interface, and

the discount administration apparatus is located at said remote location and said source is the point of sale terminal.

36.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 35, wherein the processing means of the point of sale terminal is configured to identify a user id by comparing a code from the bar code scanner with a range of codes not reserved for product ids.

37.   (Withdrawn)   A system according to claim 35, wherein point of sale means includes user input means and the processing means of the point of sale means is configured to identify a user id by detecting a predetermined operation of said user input means.